

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2322

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IS, JO
SUBJECT: ALLEGED TORTURE OF OMAR ABDUL-GHANI SALAMEH

REF: (A) DDEPARTMENT'S OM MARCH 30, 1977 (B) JERUSALEM 0512
(C) JERUSALEM 0547

1. JORDAN TIME, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AMMAN DAILY, PRINTED
FEATURE ARTICLE FEBRUARY 27 ON SALAMEH CASE THREE DAYS AFTER
HIS TRANSFER TO EAST BANK. ARTICLE BY BERNARD DEBUSMANN,
DATELINED SALT AND CITING REUTERS BY-LINE, QUOTED SALAMEH
DESCRIBING TORTURES ON HIMSELF AND ASSAULTS ON HIS WIFE
ALLEGEDLY INFLICTED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES "IN PRISON IN
NABLUS." DR. AHMAD HAMZEH, DIRECTOR OF KING HUSSEIN HOSPITAL
IN SALT, IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "I THINK THE PATIENT'S
CONDITION IS THE RESULT OF TORTURE...BECAUSE I HAVE SEEN
SIMILAR CASES." IN ARTICLE, AUTHOR DEBUSMANN ADDED THAT SALAMEH
TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN FREED AFTER GOING ON HUNGER STRIKE,
"WHEN HIS CASE WAS TAKEN UP BY ISRAELI LAWYER FELICIA LANGER--
KNOWN FOR HER DEFENCE OF LEFTISITS...SALAMEH ADDED HIS OWN
VERSION OF HOW HE CAME TO BE IN NABLUS JAIL. HE SAID THAT
SEVERAL YEARS AGO HE SERVED AN 18-MONTH JAIL TERM IN ISRAEL
FOR HAVING A HUNTING RIFLE AND ALLEGED MEMBERSHIP IN THE
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PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. HE SAID HE WAS KEPT
IN JERUSALEM'S MUSKOBEYEH JAIL AND LATER IN A HEBRON JAIL.
HE SAID HE HAD BEEN HELD FOR 58 DAYS BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE
RED CROSS WAS ALLOWED TO SEE HIM."

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SALAMEH CASE WITH AMMAN ICRC DELEGATE
COURVOISIER WHO, AS NOTED IN MONITOR ARTICLE

REFTEL A, MET SALAMEH AT ALLENBY BRIDGE AND ACCOMPANIED HIM TO KING HUSSEIN HOSPITAL IN SALT. COURVOISIER DESCRIBED SALAMEH'S CONDITION TO EMBOFF AS APPARENTLY SO DETERIORATED THAT HE FEARED THAT SALAMEH WOULD DIE BEFORE ARRIVAL TO SALT HOSPITAL, ADDING THAT SALAMEH WAS INCOHERENT DURING RIDE TO HOSPITAL AND COULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED.

3. COURVOISIER SHOWED EMBOFF TERSE TWO-PARAGRAPH LETTER IN ENGLISH ON STATIONARY OF MOUNT OF DAVID ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL IN BETHLEHEM, AND SIGNED BY A DR. DARWISH, WHICH ATTESTED TO FACT THAT SALAMEH HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE RIB FRACTURES, AND WAS RELEASED FOLLOWING TREATMENT. COURVOISIER SAID THAT LETTER WAS PART OF SALAMEH FILE TURNED OVER TO HIM AT BRIDGE BY ICRC.

4. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY INTERVIEWED DR. AHMAD HAMZEH IN SALT. (FYI: AS CONGEN JERUSALEM IS AWARE, DR. HAMZEH, AKA AHMAD HAMZEH NATSHA, IS FORMER CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF HEBRON, AS WELL AS PNC MEMBER AND POSSIBLE COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER, WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK TO JORDAN VIA LEBANON, BY ISRAELIS IN MARCH, 1976. HE FREELY SPOKE TO EMBOFF ABOUT HIS POLITICAL EXPERIENCES.) HAMZEH SAID THAT, ACTING UPON REQUEST OF BRIG. SHAWKET MALMOUD, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF JORDANIAN OFFICE OF AFFAIRS OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, HE HAD EXAMINED SALAMEH UPON ARRIVAL IN SALT. HAMZEH ALLOWED EMBOFF TO READ EXAMINATION REPORT: EXTREME EMACIATION, JAUNDICE, SEVERE ARTHRITIS IN JOINTS, CHEST PAINS (WHICH HAMZEH SAID WERE LATER DETERMINED TO BE RESULT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MULTIPLE RIB FRACTURES, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT INCLUDED IN MEDICAL REPORT), AND BLOOD IN URINE. SALAMEH WAS TREATED FOR WEEK AND DISCHARGED TO KING HUSSEIN MEDICAL CENTER. DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC FOUL-UP, SALAMEH WAS NOT ADMITTED TO KING HUSSEIN MEDICAL CENTER, BUT INSTEAD WENT TO BROTHER'S HOME ON AMMAN'S JEBEL NAZIF. SALAMEH TOOK X-RAYS WITH HIM, SAID HAMZEH.

5. HAMZEH ADDED THAT HE HAD TREATED MANY CASES SIMILAR TO SALAMEH'S WHILE LIVING IN BEIT JALLA, "ALL OF WHICH WERE DUE TO ISRAELI TORTURE." HE NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT FLATLY ASSERT, HOWEVER, THAT SALAMEH'S CONDITION WAS RESULT OF TORTURE.

6. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH SHAWKET MAHMOUD (PARA 4 ABOVE). MAHMOUD SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY ICRC/AMMAN TO ASSIST WITH CASE, AND HE HAD SO COMPLIED. HE SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT SALAMEH HAD BEEN TORTURED.

SALAMEH HIMSELF HAS BEEN INFORMED BY ACQUAINTANCES

(INCLUDING DR. HAMZEH) THAT EMBOFF WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO HIM, BUT HE HAS NOT CONTACTED EMBASSY. EMBOFF, FOLLOWING MAP AND INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY HAMZEH, RECENTLY MADE DOOR-TO-DOOR INQUIRY IN AMMAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW SALAMEH, BUT INHABITANTS OF AREA CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIM OR FAMILY. SALAMEH MAY YET CONTACT EMBASSY, IN WHICH CASE EMBOFF WILL ASK TO SEE X-RAYS TAKEN UPON ARRIVAL SALT HOSPITAL.

8. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEES PRESERVING CONFIDENTIALITY OF ICRC SOURCE.
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